Using machine-learning to scan the sky

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by Spencer Johnson

If you watch the night sky for a while, you'll start to notice changes. Meteors streak by, the International Space Station glides over in silence, an airplane blinks overhead. Among these celestial transients, less noticeable but far more powerful objects called blazars flash on and off, in brilliant gamma-ray outbursts and flashes of visible light that can last for hours, days, or even weeks.

The information from these gamma rays and visible light are key to understanding the underlying causes of these spectacular radiation emissions and the tremendously powerful explosions that produce them.

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